

21/10005
1733
9/20/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application

Petrus Cornelis Jozef BEENTJES

Examiner: T. Kilkenny

Serial No.: 09/341,637

Art Unit: 1733

Filed: July 15, 1999

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STRIP-COATING A METALLIC STRIP-SHAPED SUBSTRATE WITH A PLASTIC BAND AND STRIP THUS OBTAINED

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 14, 2002 applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections.

All the rejections rely upon Okamura WO97/32715. However, the publication date of Okamura is September 12, 1997. In contrast, the present application has priority dates of January 23, 1997 (based upon Netherlands patent application no. 1005066) and February 18, 1997 (based upon Netherlands patent application no. 1005304). Certified copies of English language translations of both priority documents are attached to this response (ATTACHMENTS I and II).

The wording for both priority documents is virtually identical. The main difference between the priority documents is that Netherlands patent application no. 1005066 recites "a temperature close to the softening temperature" in claim 1(iv)(and corresponding parts in the description and the abstract), while Netherlands patent application no. 1005304 (and corresponding parts in the description and the abstract) recites "a temperature close to, or above, the softening temperature".

When the present application entered the US National Stage, Claim 1, subpart (iv), recited "close to or above". However, this was changed by an Amendment of March 12, 2001 to "at or above" in response to a Section 112 rejection in an Office Action of December 11, 2000. Thus, present Claim 1, subpart (iv), recites "at or above" language.

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2002
TC 1700

It is respectfully submitted that at least Netherlands patent application no. 1005304 supports the present claims. For example, please see pages 2-3 and the Figures of Netherlands patent application no. 1005304.

Moreover, the translation of '304 original Claim 1, plus its page 3, last line - page 4 line 2, which states that prior to coating the contact rolls do not touch substrate 1 and the bands are conveyed off, supports Claim 1, subpart (iii).

The translation of '304 original Claim 1, plus its page 4, line 3, which states that in order to begin coating contact rolls 6 are closed, i.e., moved towards the substrate, supports Claim 1, subpart (v).

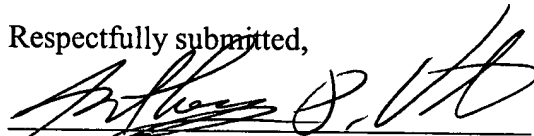
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Date:

Sept 16, 2002

By:

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony P. Venturino

Registration No. 31,674

APV/bms

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. APV 30918

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.

1615 L STREET, N.W., SUITE 850

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

TEL. 202-785-0100 / FAX. 202-408-5200

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ATTACHMENT I -

Certified Translation of Netherlands patent application no. 1005066

BEST AVAILABLE COPY